

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, claims 3 and 6, which have been indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 16 and 17, respectively. The remaining independent claims 1 and 7 in issue have been amended to improve their form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art.

As brought out in the prior prosecution, applicant's invention relates to a more challenging rapid fire rotary shooting target that is both simple in construction and which facilitates safe usage by minimizing harmful splash back of bullet fragments that can damage the support structure and injury persons on the firing line. Independent claims 1 and 7, as now presented, are believed to more clearly bring out important novel features of applicant's invention.

Claim 1 has been alternatively rejected as being anticipated by Wright and Wesley et al., and reconsideration of such rejections is respectfully requested. Applicant's vertical rotary shooting target, as set forth in claim 1, has a target structure that includes a mounting hub mounted on an axle for free relative rotation and a pair of target impact plates. Each impact plate has a respective support structure with supports a single impact plate for rotational movement with the mounting hub. As an important feature of the invention, the support structures support the respective impact plates on diametrically opposed sides of the axle in laterally offset relation to each other without any other impact plate being disposed at a common lateral position with respect to the axis of the mounting hub. By reason of that arrangement, impact forces from shooting will cause the support structure to rotate, with a shooter being required to shoot in laterally-offset directions when shooting different impact plates of the rotary target.

Wright, on the other hand, is non-analogous art bearing no relation to the problems to which applicant's invention is directed. Wright discloses two paddle wheels fixed on a shaft which are powered by stream or river water flow to drive a generator. The paddle wheels are not mounted for "free" rotation on an axial, and there is no teaching or suggestion that impact by shooting against the paddle would create enough impact force to move the paddles against the resistance of the generator. Moreover, Wright merely discloses a pair of identical paddle

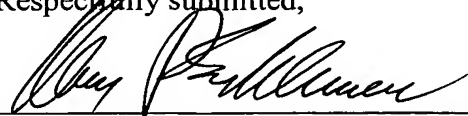
wheels, and there is no suggestion of supporting single impact plates in diametrically disposed relation to each other without any other impact plate being disposed at a common lateral position with respect to its axial mounting, as called for in claim 1. Nor does Wesley et al. disclose applicant's invention or appreciate the advantages of having impact plates mounted on a common rotary hub in both diametrically and rotary offset relation to each other in a manner that would require a shooter to shoot in laterally offset directions when shooting different impact plates of the rotary target. Hence, independent claim 1 as now presented clearly is believed to distinguish over the art.

Claim 7 has been rejected as being anticipated by Witmeyer, as reconsideration of that rejection also is requested. Claim 7 is directed to a rotary target in which the impact plates and support structure are defined by a common plate with a coplanar outer surface that defines the face of impact plate without corners that can create dangerous deflection of bullets and fragments striking the target. As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the impact plates 110 and support members 108 clearly do not have coplanar faces which in part define the impact surface of the rotary targets.

From the foregoing, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 7 both are directed to features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Since the remaining claims in issue all depend upon claims 1 and 7, for similar reasons they are believed allowable. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

If after reviewing the foregoing, any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at his direct number (312) 616-5640 with the hope of placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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